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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #8132-82
7 October 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit of PFIAB Member David Abshire

1. On the 29th of September, David Abshire, member of PFIAB, visited with a group of NIOs to discuss how the NIOs work with consumers. He had with him Michael Ledeen, Consultant to PFIAB and former Assistant to Secretary of State Haig. Abshire opened the discussion by presenting some of the impressions that PFIAB had gotten from contact with consumers on the relevance and usefulness of intelligence analytic products. These comments are essentially the ones that Seymour Weiss has voiced and that have been the subject of other exchanges between PFIAB and ourselves. Abshire presented these in a thoughtful way which reflected his own experience in the State Department.

2. The discussion was a generally constructive one. The NIOs gave examples of how they operate around town. The high variability of the situations they face with different players and agencies became clear during the course of the discussion. The principal suggestion that Abshire put forward to make things work better was for regular meetings to take place between the NIOs and either the Deputy National Security Advisor to the President or the Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, or both, to review intelligence needs. (There was no mention of the proposed analogous review planned to take place in the SIG-I group.) Abshire's suggestion was received as a useful one, but the tenor of the discussion suggested that no one present thought it would make a great deal of difference to the intelligence community-policy community relationship.

3. Abshire left professing that he had found this session very constructive; I believe it also was useful for the NIOs.


Henry S. Rowen

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